Rocks history reviewed

[Continued from page 1]

the committee was named, 'preaching' was held in the new church which was finished except for the painting. The church was dedicated the following summer.

The first Sunday School, at that time called Sabbath School, was held in March of 1888; Joseph Meadows was named superintendent.

The Rev. W. E. Wright came to Rocks Baptist Church as pastor in 1894 at a starting salary of $150.00 a year. The enrollment of the church in 1898 was 126. In March 1896, the Women's Missionary Society was organized.

In 1897 the church became one on a field of churches, and the Rev. P. T. Warren was first pastor of the field.

In 1923 the field of churches purchased the first parsonage located at Evergreen; the property was bought Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Thomas for $3,000.00. According to records, the field of churches was comprised of Rocks, Hollywood, Central and Reedy Springs. In 1926 Reedy Springs sold their interest to Evergreen Baptist Church. It as in 1936 that the parsonage burned and rebuilt on the same site.

Financial problems seemed a natural part of a church's existence and Rocks was no exception.

According to the minutes of October 1912, the church received a letter from Brother Peters stating there was a deficit in the associational fund. Tipton Jennings was appointed to raise the sum of 50c to aid the cause. The special collection was sent to Brother Peters.... the need had been met.

Money was still hard to come by in the year of 1925 when the Rev. E. F. Burnette was pastor. It seems the pastor's salary was in arrears. The pastor, trying to be helpful and at the same time to get his much needed salary, offered to give the church $55.00 of the back $216.02 due him if the church would pay him the balance within a month. The church lacked $18.27 of getting the entire amount, so a note for thirty days was made for the balance.

As pastors came and went the church grew in so many ways, both spiritually and physically. One of the greatest physical improvements was getting electical power to the church in 1935.

Improvements were continually being made, additions constructed to take care of the ever-growing number of active members and the increasing number of church related activities.

In October of 1969 a new parsonage was completed. On November 25, 1970 a Thanksgiving Service and a note-burning service of the note on the parsonage was held, just thirteen months following the dedication of the building.

In 1972 an educational wing was built and a steeple was added. In 1973 Rocks Baptist Church became full-time.

In 1980 a wing which includes a fellowship hall, space on the second floor for classrooms, a library, church office and in the sanctuary a new choir loft and a baptistry was added to the existing facilities.

Behind the baptistry is a painting that is not only beautiful but has a special meaning for members of Rocks Baptist Church. The painting shows the site of the first Rocks Baptist Church and was painted by David Heath, local artist. The church has, for many years, been using the creek at the Old Rocks Grounds to hold baptisings.

Individuals, civic, and other church groups use the Old Rocks Grounds as a gathering place for picnics and outings. As they congregate there for a quiet good time, they are reminded of the early history of Rocks Church, beginning more than 200 years ago. Rocks Baptist Church, old and growing!

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Times-Virginian Church News

The Pastor Speaks

By KITCH SHATZER
Read Numbers 12:1-16

If it is easy, sometimes even enjoyable, for you to criticize others, be careful! It is most serious to criticize, especially a servant of the Lord. With Miriam, divine judgment came suddenly and solemnly. Even if a person does wrong-if he or she has failed in any way and perhaps merits criticism-the Lord himself will deal with that person.

Think of the force of this question: "Why then were you not afraid to criticize Moses?" The apostle Paul reminds us that only Christ is qualified to condemn. And yet, instead of condemning, He justifies. True christian fellowship, acting in love, will cover a multitude of sins.

Perhaps it is not your habit to criticize others. How then, do you react when you are criticized? Moses held no feeling of resentment against his brother and sister who spoke so bitterly against him. Instead he lifted up his heart in earnest prayer for them.

A person truly humble before the Lord is not defensive; he or she rises above criticism. She is not touchy, nor self-centered. If it is an justified he merely lets it pass; she leaves herself and her reputation with God, who judges righteously. If criticism is just, he makes correction. Whenever anyone criticizes you, overlook on the spot, and look up! The Lord will give you glorious victory!

Let us ask God to deliver us from the temptation to criticize others; also the tendency toward hurt feelings or resenting when criticism is directed toward us.

Kitch Shatzer is pastor of Concord, Beale Memorial, Buffalo and Madisonville Presbyterian Churches.

Bible & Daily Living

Blessing's promise is a source of hope

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
The Promise of Blessing
Lesson for August 16, 1981
Bible Study Passage: Deuteronomy 30:1-10
INTRODUCTION

The hopeful prospect for a future blessing provides continued encouragement. For the past three months my oldest son has saved his money to purchase a very nice bicycle. He had moments when he wondered if the day would come that he could get his bicycle out of layaway and ride it. That day dawned this past week. No one was more proud of the new bicycle than he. His mother and father were proud of his accomplishment. It was a day of blessing for all.

Some blessings seem so far into the future we ponder whether we shall ever experience them. And because of past sins we may feel we do not deserve to be blessed. We are deserve any "cures" that comes our way. Perhaps we have been broken in spirit for so long that there is little or no hope for recovery.

This week's lesson focuses upon the people of Israel and God's blessing upon them. The Mosaic prophecy states that as long as the people of Israel obey the voice of God they shall be recipients of divine blessing.

The Hope Of Restoration (Deut. 30:1-5)

Certain rules of life must be followed if one is to survive. Unless we guard our health we wind up in the "medical arena." The rules of the highway must be observed lest we cause harm to ourselves or others.

In the spiritual realm the same axiom is true. Unless we observe the laws of God we may experience cursing instead of blessing. And the notion of "curse" is not something God necessarily inflicts upon us, but something we bring on ourselves through our own actions.

The Israelites were instructed that if they kept the commandments of God and responded to his voice, they would be abundantly blessed with possession of the promised land. While facing captivity in Babylon the Israelites were told that in time God would return them to the land they loved so well.

If Israel had remained committed to the Lord they would not have set themselves up for such a disastrous downfall. Of course, the "if" game does not alter the circumstances we encounter for our actions. In truth, however, if we do choose to live in obedience to God, we will experience blessing and reap the joy of peace.

When we avoid those pitfalls we know can trip us up we save ourselves a lot of wear and tear. When we consciously go against the governing laws laid down by God we run the risk of personal disaster.

The Assurance of Blessing (Deut. 30:6-10)

While apostasy (falling away from the faith) is sure to bring about personal and corporate disaster, the arms of God are always extended to receive us back home. God formed us to be his children and to experience his blessing. No matter how far we may roam from our "home," God is always available to receive us back.

God is like the compassionate shepherd who cares for all of his sheep no matter how far they stray. The Old Testament image of the shepherd points to the New Testament and the Christ who came to be the seeking Shepherd after a lost and broken world. The time was ripe for his coming that people might both know and see that God cares deeply for his children, so deeply, in fact, that he willfully gave up his Son that we might have life both abundantly and eternally.

What we're talking about is grace, unmerited favor, or acceptance. God approves and accepts us not because of who or what we are but simply that we are. We are his children which can experience the joy of his blessing when we acknowledge him as our Father.

The blessing of God's acceptance of us is to work its way into the lives of those we meet. If we have been accepted by God, then we are commissioned to be accepting of those who may appear not so acceptable. When we practice acceptance of other people, we free them to become the beautiful persons God intended for them to be.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

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Chestnut Grove

Mrs. Don Morris entertained her youth Sunday School class at her home Sunday with a picnic and pool party.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bowen and girls of De Meaville, Kentucky and Rodney Morris of Richmond are spending this week with Mr. and Mrs. Calvin W. Morris. Other weekend guest were Mr. and Mrs. Billy Morris and Rodney and Linda Morris all of Richmond, Eddie Staggof Powhatan, Nancy Whitaker of Farmville.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewing Joyner of Herndon, Kentucky were Wednesday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Harris.

Mrs. T. N. Saul had as Tuesday guest, Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Ward of Roanoke. Her weekend guest were Billy Saul and Johnanna of Piney Point, Maryland, Captain Tibbs of Houston, Texas.

Wednesday night visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Beasley, Jr. were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kearns, and Jacob Scott; Miss Josephine Walton, all of Arlington; Mr. and Mrs. John Walton of Dillwyn; Mrs. Katherine Carson of Spout Spring; Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Carson of Wise.

Kathy Beasley spent Wednesday night and Thursday with her grandmother, Mrs. Katherine Carson of Spout Spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Harris, accompanied by Mrs. Pete Senger of Curdsville spent the weekend visiting relatives in Tenn.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ball of Hammond, Indiana and Mrs. James Adamson of Chicago, Ill. are spending this week with their mother, Mrs. Carrie Senger and Mr. Bill.

Sunday dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. V. C. Proffitt and Ethel were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Melhaff of Lynchburg; Mr. and Sunday dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. V. C. Proffitt and Ethel were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Melhaff of Lynchburg, Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Proffitt, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Proffitt, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Proffitt, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Proffitt, Mrs. C. D. Proffitt all of Charlottesville, Mr. and Mrs. Shorty Kidd and Lake of Dillwyn.

Wayne Cook of Richmond spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cook. Edward and Kenneth Cook of Prospect spent Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Beasley, Jr. and family were Sunday night visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cook of Prospect.

Spending the weekend with Mrs. Alice Senger were Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Graybeal and children and Debbie Pope, all of Abingdon. Sunday visitors were Mrs. Lucille Senger of Cumberland, Mrs. John Ball of Hammond, Ind., Mrs. James Adamson of Chicago, Ill.

The Chestnut Grove Homemakers Club met Monday with seven members present. The demonstration on counted cross stitch was given by Mrs. K. M. Beasley, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Hobert Harris of Sheppards were Saturday night guest of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey N. Morris.

Mrs. A. N. Morris was a recent visitor of her brother, F. W. Harris of Sheppards.

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